

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling communications in a system for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:
receiving a first request for available updates from a user interface, the said request received by a web module;
processing the said first request on the said web module;
sending a second request for available updates from the web module to a main module;
placing the said web module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the second request;
processing the said second request on the said main module;
sending a third request for available updates from the said main module to a patch module;
placing the said main module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the third request;
processing the said third request on the said patch module, the processing including examining a global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;
sending a first reply with a list of available updates from the said patch module to the said main module;
sending a second reply with a list of available updates from the said main module to the said web module; and

sending a third reply with a list of available updates from the said web module to the said user interface.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the said web module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the said main module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the said patch module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the said web module, main module, and patch module are located on a client.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the said web module, main module, and patch module are located on a server.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the said patch module communicates with a patch module on a server.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the said patch module communicates with a patch module on a client.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the ~~said~~ requests is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the ~~said~~ replies is in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein in the ~~said~~ listen state, a module waits for communication with another module.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein in the ~~said~~ process state, a module:
determines the grammatical correctness of a request; and
generates a request.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein in the ~~said~~ respond state, a module further generates a reply message.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein in the ~~said~~ listen state, a module waits for communication with another module.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein in the ~~said~~ process state, a module:
determines the grammatical correctness of a request; and
generates a request.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein in the said respond state, a module further generates a reply message.
17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
validating the said requests for syntactical correctness upon receipt by a module.
18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling communications in a system for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the apparatus comprising:
a web module user interface request receiver;
a web module user interface request processor coupled to the said web module user interface request receiver;
a web module request sender coupled to the said web module user interface request processor;
a web module listen state placer coupled to the said web module request sender and configured to place the web module in a listen state without waiting for a response to a request sent by the web module request sender;
a main module web module request processor coupled to the said web module request sender;
a main module request sender coupled to the said main module web module request processor;
a main module listen state placer coupled to the said main module request processor and configured to place the main module in a listen state without waiting for a response to a request sent by the main module request sender;

a patch module main module request processor coupled to the said main module request sender and configured to examine a global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

a patch module reply sender coupled to the said patch module main module request processor;

a main module reply sender coupled to the said patch module reply sender; and

a web module reply ~~replay~~ sender coupled to the said main module reply sender.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparatus is located on a server.
20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the apparatus is located on a client.
21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling communications in a system for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the apparatus comprising:
- means for receiving a first request for available updates from a user interface, the said request received by a web module;
- means for processing the said first request on the said web module;
- means for sending a second request for available updates from the web module to a main module;
- means for placing the said web module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the second request;
- means for processing the said second request on the said main module;

means for sending a third request for available updates from the said main module to a patch module;

means for placing the said main module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the third request;

means for processing the said third request on the said patch module, the processing including examining a global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

means for sending a first reply with a list of available updates from the said patch module to the said main module;

means for sending a second reply with a list of available updates from the said main module to the said web module; and

means for sending a third reply with a list of available updates from the said web module to the said user interface.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the said web module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the said main module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the said patch module is in a listen state, process state, or respond state.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ~~said~~ web module, main module, and patch module are located on a client.
26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ~~said~~ web module, main module, and patch module are located on a server.
27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the ~~said~~ patch module communicates with a patch module on a server.
28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the ~~said~~ patch module communicates with a patch module on a client.
29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the ~~said~~ requests is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema.
30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of the ~~said~~ replies is an Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema.
31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein in the ~~said~~ listen state, a module waits for communication with another module.
32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein in the ~~said~~ process state, a module:

determines the grammatical correctness of a request; and

generates a request.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein in the said respond state, a module further generates a reply message.
34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein in the said listen state, a module waits for communication with another module.
35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein in the said process state, a module:

determines the grammatical correctness of a request; and

generates a request.
36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein in the said respond state, a module further generates a reply message.
37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

validating the said requests for syntactical correctness upon receipt by a module.
38. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling communications in a system for automatically distributing a software update to a network of devices controlled by an organization, the method comprising:

receiving a first request for available updates from a user interface, the said request received by a web module;

processing the said first request on the said web module;

sending a second request for available updates from the web module to a main module;

placing the said web module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the second request;

processing the said second request on the said main module;

sending a third request for available updates from the said main module to a patch module;

placing the said main module in a listen state without waiting for a response to the third request;

processing the said third request on the said patch module, the processing including examining a global update repository including updates from multiple application manufacturers;

sending a first reply with a list of available updates from the said patch module to the said main module;

sending a second reply with a list of available updates from the said main module to the said web module; and

sending a third reply with a list of available updates from the said web module to the said user interface.